

Thurgood Marshall College Fund Visits NIFA

On April 27, the NIFA Center for International Programs hosted a delegation from the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF), to discuss the interest, experience and capacity of the TMCF membership to support USDA's international objectives. TMCF is a national organization that provides scholarships, capacity building and advocacy on behalf of 47 Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The TMCF delegation included 12 representatives from across the university membership and several TMCF staff. NIFA National Program Leaders Edwin Lewis and Ann Linchens-Park discussed opportunities for international engagement through NIFA grants. Anita Regmi, Office of the Chief Scientists for Research, Education and Economics, provided an overview of the Feed the Future initiative, with a focus on research collaboration. In addition to their visit with NIFA, the TMCF delegation also met with staff at Peace Corps, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the State Department and Congressional staff.

University of Florida International Extension Study Tour

On March 28, the NIFA Center for International Programs hosted a group of 11 graduate students and one faculty member from the University of Florida (UF). The students were enrolled in an international agricultural development course at UF, with a particular focus on extension systems. The purpose of the visit was to supplement classroom instruction by exposing students to various organizations engaged in international extension activities. During their visit to USDA, the students met with staff from NIFA and the Foreign Agricultural Service. During their 3 day stay, the group also met with other international entities in the DC area, including USAID, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), ACDI-VOCA and a number of other non-governmental organizations.

International Science and Education Grant Program: Project Director Meeting

On June 27, the Center for International Programs held a project directors (PD) meeting for the International Science and Education (ISE) program. Eleven PDs and co-PDs attended the meeting and gave oral presentations on the progress of their funded projects to date. Several students who benefited from the program also attended.

Presentation topics ranged from a project focused on sustainable agriculture and watershed management in India to a project focused on extension agent training and student education programs in Belize.

In addition to reporting out on progress, the meeting allowed project directors to interact and discuss potential collaboration that will help enhance the impacts of their ISE projects.

International engagement by universities is essential to building global competence and keeping America competitive and ISE contributes to both. Although the ISE program is a small program, we believe that it has had a significant impact on U.S. campuses in developing global competence among faculty, staff and students.

Peter McPherson, president of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) and Malcolm Butler, vice president for APLU International Programs, visited with the PDs and students over lunch. They had a chance to both learn about ISE projects, and to discuss APLU's international work.

Here are a few examples of the impacts of ISE projects:

North Carolina State University is using an ISE grant to partner with a university and non-profit sustainable agricultural research and extension center in Uruguay to promote internationalization of their programs focused on organic production and marketing. Because of their participation on the project, extension agents in North Carolina have developed new programs for delivering research information to Hispanic clientele.

The ISE program is helping the United States stay ahead of the food safety curve. Working with scientists in China, the University of Missouri is using ISE support to help combat food contamination through the global food chain.

Upcoming Webinars

FEWS-NET: USAID's Famine Early Warning Systems Network and its implications for global food security

How does the U.S. government attempt to prevent malnutrition, hunger, and starvation around the world? One way is through the Famine Early Warning System (FEWS NET). FEWS NET monitors food security conditions in 30 of the most vulnerable countries in the world and provides punctual warnings when the situation deteriorates. John Scicchitano, program manager for FEWS NET, will describe how the activity functions, with examples of food security alerts from various regions including the Horn of Africa, where an acute crisis currently threatens over 10 million people.

AUGUST 3, 2011

800 9TH ST SW, WASHINGTON DC

ROOM 3455

Noon—1 p.m.

For webinar go to <http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/fews/>

Previous webinars now online for viewing:

Panel: Minority Serving Institutions and International Development

CIP recently held a panel to discuss the critical role that Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) of higher education play in promoting international development. The extended 90 minute- long panel featured William DeLauder, author of a recent report regarding MSIs and international development, as well as colleagues from the College of the Menominee Nation, from USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

International Community Colleges in International Agricultural Development

NIFA's Center for International Programs recently conducted a seminar with Michael Allen of the American Association for Community Colleges who discussed the traditional and emerging role—often underappreciated—of U.S. community colleges in promoting agricultural development in countries around the world.

NIFA in Haiti—A seminar with National Program Leader Kitty Cardwell

NIFA's Center for International Programs conducted a seminar with Kitty Cardwell in which she talked about her recent work in Haiti with the Ministry of Agriculture. Kitty worked closely with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank to define the ministry's role in agricultural extension and to revitalize Haitian vocational agriculture schools by modernizing curriculum and training the school directors.

Global Health, Agriculture and Nutrition Research: A Discussion with the NIH Fogarty International Center

NIFA's Center for International Programs conducted a seminar with the Barbara Sina and Flora Katz of the National Institute of Health's (NIH) Fogarty International Center (FIC) as they presented a brief overview of the mission of the FIC and the types of programs they support in Global Health. They then provided background on current successful collaboration between FIC and NIFA and the International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups. They also highlighted some FIC awards that focus on veterinary, agricultural, or nutrition research, and discussed a few programs that addressed shared interests and are possible areas for future collaboration.

View our archived seminars at:

http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/international/res/intl_res_adfa.html

Please direct all questions to CIP@nifa.usda.gov